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INPORT NEWS

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■ **SEAWAY:** Coal, salt and grain up

■ **AFTER THE FIRE:** Owner proud of reinvigorated Reeb House

More ships in system

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Significant increases in grain, salt, coal and petroleum products moved during the first two months of activity on the St. Lawrence Seaway and Welland Canal have given the 2011 shipping season a positive start, says St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

see **SEAWAY** | page 2

See Inside:

INSERTS
Full Distribution



Reeb House bar manager Amanda Sandluck pours a beer.

EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Rising from the ashes

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne's Reeb House is just buzzing with activity.

Inside patrons are laughing and having a good time while enjoying a delicious meal or a few cold drinks. It's a thriving hub of community activity in Port Colborne's east side.

It's a far cry from more than a year and a half ago when the land was barren, a result of a large blaze that burned the beloved restaurant to the ground. The past year has been a challenging one for owner John Zarb, who made it his mission to rebuild the Reeb House and restore it to its former glory.

see **RESTAURANT** | page 2

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SEAWAY

'Total grain shipments increased by 31%'

FROM PAGE 1

A release from the corporation said total cargo shipments for the period between March 22 to May 31 totalled 7.6 million tonnes, up 3.7% over the same period in 2010.

"The shipping season has got off to a positive start," said Bruce Hodgson, director of market development for the Seaway corporation.

"We're seeing increases in volumes in almost all areas and in particular in staple cargos like grain, salt and coal. We're also seeing increased volumes in project cargo, such as wind turbines, going through the system."

"We continue to be cautiously optimistic going forward. A big part of future activity on the Seaway is going to be dependent on how the U.S. economy continues to move."

Salt shipments increased by 25% to 420,000 tonnes as cities replenished their reserves after a long winter, while coal increased by 14% to 850,000 tonnes.

Total grain shipments increased by 31% to 1.8 million tonnes. Stored Canadian grain continues to be in demand as world grain markets fluctuate due to weather-related problems. U.S. grain shipments were particularly strong due to extra traffic being diverted to the Seaway following flooding on the Mississippi River trade corridor," the release said.

Iron ore shipments were down by 1.5 million tonnes compared to the

same period last year primarily due to the idling of the U.S. Steel plant in Hamilton. However, steel slab shipments on the Seaway were up 102% to 80,000 tonnes.

Shipments of petroleum products also increased by 160% to 465,000 tonnes, as Seaway vessels brought in supplies to Canadian communities during a scheduled maintenance outage at the Suncor refinery in Sarnia.

"We understand that Suncor made a commitment to its customers to continue to bring in supplies during its planned maintenance outage. This highlights the key role that the Great Lakes-Seaway system plays in creating a robust logistics network that can re-balance critical flows of supplies into the Canadian heartland," Hodgson said in the release.

The number of vessel transits through the Seaway were up 10% over the same period last year.

St. Catharines-based Algoma Central reported a resurgence of activity in grain, iron ore, salt and oil shipments.

"We are very pleased to see further strengthening in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence shipping demands this year," said Wayne Smith, Algoma's senior vice president of commercial operations. "Due to our strong order book we have called an additional four ships into service this year over and above our original plans."

Paul Pathy, president and chief executive officer of Fednav Group, said the 2011



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Algoma Central's Algoma Discovery sits at the stone dock undergoing some maintenance recently. St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. said year-to-date total cargo shipments for the period between March 22 to May 31 were 7.6 million tonnes, up 3.7% over the same period in 2010.

navigation season got off to a good start during its first two months.

"Our ocean-going vessels have been bringing in steel, minerals, and fertilizers into Great Lakes ports and taking out grain to international markets and we're optimistic that the pace of activity will continue in the coming months."

Mont real-based Fednav Group, the largest ocean-going user of the Seaway, is adding capacity to its ocean-going lakers fleet with a \$100-million investment in three new state-of-the-art vessels.

The Seaway's release said another bright spot in early season activity was a 177% uptick in general cargo

shipments as international vessels brought in wind turbine products to the Port of Thunder Bay and other ports.

In May, the Port of Thunder Bay received the first of three ships carrying 43 complete Siemens wind turbines from Denmark. The next two ships will arrive this month.

RESTAURANT

Reeb House bigger in second go

FROM PAGE 1

Construction began last Dec. 1 and the new Reeb opened May 20.

"There were people who didn't think we could get shovels in the ground but we did. There were others that didn't think we'd be open by May 24, weekend but we did as well," said Zarb.

It would have been easy for Zarb to write off the building after the fire and move on, but he still saw life in the business.

"I enjoy it too much," he said. "I want to provide a good environment with good food."

The main level of the building that houses the restaurant is spread out over 450 square metres, which is twice the size of the previous restaurant. The Reeb House's second floor will house an inn with up to 20 rooms, something Zarb hopes to get launched this fall.

Zarb said the new restaurant is more family oriented, boasting a central arcade area where children can play video games. There's also a dedicated volleyball court for local leagues. Zarb said there will be 26 teams playing this summer every Monday and Wednesday nights. Zarb is also planning to open a patio.

The Reeb House is at 2401 Hwy. 3.

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■ **NEW:** Name unveiled for organization that will oversee south Niagara and east Haldimand

Admirals pull rank in triple A hockey

BERND FRANKE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Panthers are extinct, as are Tigers, the Stars have been eclipsed, the Sailors permanently marooned and the Wild tamed.

What about the Blackhawks and Rivertown Flyers? They've both been grounded.

Welcome to everything that's new in triple A hockey in south Niagara and east Haldimand, where Admirals is the nickname of teams fans from Cayuga to Thorold will begin saluting beginning with the 2011-12 season.

An Ontario Minor Hockey Association rule requiring triple A centres to be separate and distinct from their member organizations in a shared region, such as the former Welland hub, prompted the establishment of an overseeing body and a name-the-team contest.

"The OMHA didn't want triple A to be run by one minor hockey organization," Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association president Bill Steele said of the need for the off-season change. "That was never a problem in St. Catharines or Hamilton—they're both large enough to operate on their own—but it was for the smaller centres that had to band together to meet the 100,000 population minimum."

In addition to prohibiting suggesting a nickname from a member organization, such as Panthers (Pelham), Sailors (Port Colborne), Wild (Wainfleet) and Tigers (Welland), people entering the contest were told not to use "Niagara" in the team name. "We wanted to get away from that since St. Catharines had already decided on becoming the Niagara North Stars. We also didn't want to create any confusion with Niagara Falls," said Steele, Port Colborne's representative on the seven-member executive that will direct day-to-day operations of the new triple A organization.

"We wanted something unique to our area. That's why we went with 'Southern



With the Welland Canal as a backdrop, Port Colborne Minor Hockey Association president Bill Steele unveils the winning entry from a contest to name the new organization that will oversee triple A hockey in south Niagara and east Haldimand.

BERND FRANKE Staff Photo

Tier'."

When it came time to settling on a winner from among the 47 entries, directors were looking for a nickname that would incorporate "as much as possible" what the communities of Cayuga, Dunnville, Pelham, Port Colborne, Thorold, Wainfleet and Wainfleet have in common. It was agreed almost from the outset that, with the lone exception of Pelham, each of the other centres is on the water, either on the Welland Canal or the Grand River.

"It does pick up all the communities. The water touches us all."

After the field was trimmed to a short list of eight contenders, the Admirals wound up outranking them all.

"In the end, everyone said 'Let's go with Admirals,'" he said of a selection process in which entries were rated on a scale of one to four and eliminated if they couldn't maintain their support over subsequent rounds.

Failing to make the final cut, in no particular order,

were the Lake Erie Wave, Niagara South Shock, South Central Nighthawks, South Seven Scorpions, South Seven Synergy and Southern Tier Stealth.

After "some tweaking" of the logo submitted by contest winner Sanjay Singh, red, royal blue, yellow and white will be the new team's home colours, with uniforms featuring a darker shade of blue. The stylized capital 'A' logo features seven stars, two more than the United States Navy's top wartime rank of fleet admiral, but enough to

give each member organization its own star.

"In that regard, the logo is neat because the stars almost line up to where the communities are on the map," Steele said.

Players and coaches for the new hub's nine triple A teams have already been selected, with Thorold, Wainfleet and Welland scheduled to host home games in the first season. Only the availability of ice time is limiting Cayuga, Dunnville, Pelham and Port Colborne from hosting triple

A hockey.

"I'm sure once our twin-pad (arena) is completed, we'll be hosting some games, too," added Steele, a member of Port Colborne city council.

The Southern Tier Admirals will be part of the South Central Triple A League with Brampton, Burlington, Grey Bruce (Owen Sound), Guelph, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

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ourview

Improving brownfield lands

With 30 locations across the city identified as brownfield sites, Port's Brownfield Community Improvement Plan should be good news to property owners.

Under the plan, developers can take advantage of a development charge exemption program that would provide up to 70% reduction of the city's portion of development charges. It would be applied at the time fees are normally paid.

Port's planning and development director Dan Aquilina said the exemption program is a "feather in the cap" for anyone wanting to develop on a brownfield site. In order to qualify, a property owner must have an understanding of "what's underneath the soil," meaning owners must know the environmental condition of the land before proceeding.

Mayor Vance Badaway said most of the sites are stagnant and there is a need to get them up to standards.

"Bottom line is there will be funding available to be instigated back for brownfield sites," Badaway said. "The aim is to restore more economic activity in Niagara."

We hope property owners and developers take advantage of the program. We agree with Badaway that it would help bring economic activity to Niagara and Port Colborne.

It could also bring new life to lands that have sat vacant and unused for years. Whatever the land is used for, it could mean jobs for people in the area, new businesses, new companies.

Things the city and Niagara can surely use right now.

The Travel Guy

Frank Greco is proud that if you put your mind to anything, you can do it. This past Tuesday, the second season of his travel show — *The Travel Guy* — premiered on Discovery World HD.

When Greco, a Port Colborne native, started to film the first season of his show, he didn't even have a network deal. He even paid for some of the trips out of his own pocket. And when he tried to film the first episode, he and his crew were hit by a hurricane. That didn't stop him, he just moved to a new location, which was also hit by a hurricane.

Most people would have given up, but Greco didn't let that stop him and he knew the show would be picked up, and it was. The first season was broadcast on Sun TV in Canada, making his dream of being on TV and travelling the world come true.

With the second season now picked up by Discovery World HD, he'll appear across the nation again, showcasing vacation spots across the world. His unique style of finding things off the beaten path and learning the history of an area or attraction should be very appealing to the travelling public. And his trips are also affordable for most people.

Not only does he have a travel show, but he's working with renowned chef Massimo Gora on a cooking show that travels to different locations. It goes to show, that if you want something bad enough, you can make it happen.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

In starving. This is a common expression we use when we have missed a meal or two. It really is not true.

It is only an expression. Most of us in Canada do not know what absolute poverty and hunger really is. Absolute poverty and hunger is a state where there are no resources for you to draw upon to meet your essential needs as a human being. Nothing. Zip, Nada.

We, in Canada in general and Port Colborne in particular, do have hungry people. For whatever reason, there are children who do not get the nourishment they need and families who just cannot stretch the meager dollars which they have in order to provide their basic food needs.

In 1986, members of the Clergy Fellowship and a few others began the Inter-Church Food Bank as a means to help people with emergency food needs. The intent was to supply these individuals with enough food to provide for their immediate needs. As the needs grew, and with that the demands for more food supplies, the Inter-church Food Bank moved from different locations and expanded their inventory to meet greater numbers and needs. Many people worked and gave sacrificially for this cause.

In recent years, the Port Colborne

Wainfleet Clergy Fellowship, the Port Cares Reach Out Centre and the Salvation Army received food supplies from local churches, businesses, individuals and outside corporate donors that helped maintain a basic inventory of food for each of them to distribute. While each of the three Food Providers operated independently, the regular practice among the three was to keep in contact with each other and often share the supplies each had received.

The largest and longest serving of the three Food Providers, the Inter-Church Food Bank, reached a cross-roads in 2010. With the retirement of its volunteer long-term Director, rapidly growing food needs among people in our community, lessening supplies of food to the Food Bank and an evaluation of the present and future needs, they established a Food Bank Planning Team. This new team was to develop a new plan to fulfill the mandate of "feeding the hungry in Jesus' name".

The major needs to be incorporated into the new plan were:

1. One permanent location for food storage and distribution
 2. Computerized data base of clients and food resources
 3. A new generation of volunteers from our churches and community to complement those already serving
- Opportunity came, during the planning process, to consider and accept the amalgamation of the food providers into the new Port Cares Reach Out

Centre when the expansion plans were completed. This would fulfill the three areas of need mentioned above.

The new food service is soon to become a reality. It will be called the Port Colborne Community Food Centre and is under the direction of Port Cares in the new and expanded Reach Out Centre on the corner of Davis and Nickel Streets. Our local churches and Clergy Fellowship have committed themselves to being involved in a partnership with Port Cares in this great service to our community.

The merger of the Inter-church Food Bank and the Port Cares Reach Out Centre will enable members (clients) to continue to receive the help needed.

Our local Salvation Army will continue to provide basic emergency food for their clients.

The Community Food Centre will continue to partner with churches, businesses and individuals in the receiving and giving out of food supplies. This will enable families, children and individuals to have basic needs met. The goal is to have food supplies available every Tuesday and Friday at the Reach Out Centre beginning the first week of July.

Thank you for your continued support of our Food Centre with your donations and please consider the opportunity of being a Port Colborne Community Food Centre Volunteer by calling Rachelle Anderson at Port Cares at 905-834-3629 ext 262 or e-mail volunteers@portcares.on.ca

■ readers' views

NEW CENTRE THREE YEARS AWAY

With respect to your editorial about the new health and wellness centre, the naysayers were never against the centre per se, but certainly were very much against the costs at \$35.5 million.

Monolithic Dome Technology offered a viable alternative at around \$27 million and it's really stretching coincidence that the final cost for the centre came in at \$27.5 million \$8 million less than the \$35.5 million figure.

One of the major advantages and his crew overlooked was the \$10 million windfall to the Port's economy because of Monolithic Dome construction which uses local materials and employs local labour. Feedback was that council did not have a comfort zone with the technology. They would rather forgo the \$10 million windfall, jobs, and local business increase that came with it than risk the Monolithic Dome route.

It will be closer to three years down the road before the new centre is truly functional. These edifices have a history of delays and cost overruns. It is hoped that the city taxpayers are protected against possible tax increases to cover the potential costs.

John Mitchell
Port Colborne

NOT ENOUGH NUMBER CRUNCHING

Your letter writer from Wainfleet asked to follow her own advice and herself a thinking cap for her woolly head. Obviously, she's done no research on the topic: she's been crunching granola instead of facts and figures.

Facts and figures would have told her the following:

1. all energy sources apart from the ones she lists (that is, so called green sources) cannot and will not supply more than 2 or 3% of the province's total

power consumption;

2. the power grid cannot handle the current over-supply of energy (which is why the government sells it outside Ontario — your wind and solar sources can't even get on the grid; nevertheless, our taxes pay people to produce wasted energy);

3. hydro power is the greenest and potentially largest single source of energy; but hydro close by is shut down for certain periods because the power grid can't handle the supply (is the government stupid or what?);

4. potential hydro resources in Ontario's north remain unexploited and could replace nuclear.

Watts has done plenty of research, but, of course, he doesn't crunch granola.

F.M. Macri
Wainfleet

continued on page 5

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FROM PAGE 4

THERE IS NO ENERGY CRISIS

Re: 'Negative, negative...' letter from Shoshana Tsure.

I'm not sure how to reply to Shoshana whose own research appears to equate common sense and rationality with being negative? 'Green' alternative energy only makes sense if it works. Sadly, it doesn't in any efficient, reliable or economic sense. She should look at the IEEO website.

The nearly 900 industrial wind machines that are currently operating in Ontario theoretically, and based on the wind industry's own figures, could contribute up to 1200KW of capacity to the grid.

At 10 p.m. tonight wind energy contributed just 1.1% of Ontario's energy capacity to the grid.

At 10 p.m. tonight, when peak demand was forecast by IEEO, wind energy actually contributed just 1.8% of Ontario's energy demand.

At 10 p.m. tonight Ontario's energy capacity was 25,358KW.

At 10 p.m. tonight Ontario's demand for energy was 15,743KW. There is no energy crisis in Ontario, merely incompetent governments of all parties who have for years sold energy too cheaply in order to buy votes. The energy crisis is not a lack of energy only a complete lack of competence in managing that energy.

The other 'alternatives'? Solar, biofuel and geothermal energy don't even rate in the listed capacities, they all contribute such

insignificant amounts of useable energy to the grid. They are listed as 'other'.

If 900 industrial wind machines only contribute up to 1.1% of capacity with 900 machines, do the math Shoshana, that's nearly 25,300 machines spread over Ontario's agricultural and environmentally sensitive landscape to achieve the wind industry's 'promise' of 30% wind energy capacity in 20 years. Big money and big profits to the oil companies and coal companies investing in 'green' guaranteed tax paid profits for green energy whether or not it works. And of course it doesn't, anywhere it has been tried.

And solar panels strung above the farmland where sheep and cattle graze, as one proponent has described it. Is this really the future you would wish on our children? And it will still be their taxes paying for the alternative energy companies profits whilst wind and solar energy remain unreliable and inefficient.

Hydro is probably Canada's biggest asset. If successive government hadn't given it away or sold it abroad at a loss, which they still do, this country could possibly be close to self sufficiency in energy.

Nuclear is becoming 'cleaner' though still potentially scary. However the knee jerk reaction to the Japan crisis is just that, 'knee jerk' Those nuclear plants were not designed to withstand a category 9 earthquake, never mind the tsunami and following

aftershocks. Canada's safe nuclear power record still remains good in spite of successive government withdrawing support to appease the environmentalist lobby.

And like it or not Shoshana, you will still have to rely completely on hydro and nuclear at the very least, if you still wish to enjoy heating, cooling, lights and even TV and a computer in your home.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

FACE DIFFICULT FACTS ON LOCAL JOB LOSSES

Judging by his letters, Andrew Watts is the kind of man who, once convinced, doesn't change his mind.

He'll say to his dying day that solar and wind power is not sustainable.

Some day, when every south-looking roof has solar panels, every modern house geothermal heating and kids are delighting in counting the most wind turbines in the distance, they will fondly remember the adamant nayayers: 'Couldn't be done, would never work.'

Other people, like Chris Wojnarowski, are convinced

that the jobs that left Welland for the developing countries would come back if only the provincial government would give them really cheap electricity rates and incentive money, money that is now being used to jump start the green economy.

Well, think again.

They probably have the cheap electricity where they are now, plus the cheapest labour imaginable, at less than a couple of dollars an hour.

If you gave them electricity free, you still couldn't come anywhere near the labour cost savings.

And corporations go for profits, not morals, as we have seen here already.

Our loss of factory jobs was decided when our government signed the free trade deals, under the illusion (let's be kind) that that doing so would create more jobs.

Now with corporations free to produce where they want and trade where they want, we are outdone by greater profit margins in countries with little pollution restrictions and low labour costs.

Our choices are few—for instance, legislating 50% Canadian

content in all imports, requiring corporations to find at least 20% green energy for their production before they qualify to sell their products in Canada.

Or, more drastically, don't allow the import of anything, we produce enough of, ourselves. Why would we?

Let's wake up to the facts instead of whining about our lost jobs and suggesting that we pay more to the very companies, that shamefully deserted us.

We can be inventive. We can move forward. The future starts now.

The corporations are doing fantastic in Mexico, China and elsewhere.

We need more brains to decide what products we need in advanced technology and then get people together that have the know-how with an understanding that product will be bought by Canadian people and government.

I'm sure other progressive governments have restrictions in place. With our economy being hampered, it ought to be our patriotic duty to buy Canadian.

Doris Teo
Port Colborne

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COLUMN



LINDSAY CASTELLO InPort News Photo
Classic cars filled the H.J. Knoll parking lot last Tuesday as the Ice Box held its weekly cruise night.

Hot wheels on display at the Ice Box

LINDSAY CASTELLO
InPort News Staff

A weekly tradition has residents revving up their engines.

Classic cars filled the H.J. Knoll parking lot last Tuesday as the Ice Box held its weekly cruise night.

From 5 to 9 p.m., vehicle owners put their cars on display, allowing the public to get up close and personal as they examined the vintage automobiles.

Ed Wessner, who owns the Ice Box, said while participation varies from night to night, he sees hundreds of cars each year and with weather permitting, every night is successful.

"I've always been a car buff," said the former General Motors employee.

He said the cruise nights tie in with the 50s theme of the restaurant and that playing 50s music over the speakers creates an atmosphere.

While some just come to get a glimpse of the cars, others see it as a social evening and spend the night taking it all in.

Wessner said he has seen a lot of out-of-town visitors with people coming from as far as Toronto to participate. Cruise nights continue at the park every Tuesday evening for the remainder of the summer.

see CASTELLO | page 7

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■ COSTELLO

Optimist Day in the Park 'all about kids'

FROM PAGE 6

Weasner said there is no need to register and encouraged people to bring their cars and chairs and make a night of it.

FATHER'S DAY FUN

A day of fun in the sun brought youth education to the forefront this past weekend.

The Port Colborne Optimist Club hosted its seventh annual Optimist Day in the Park at H.H. Knoll Park on Sunday. The family-friendly event drew a crowd with children's activities, live entertainment, food and displays.

"It's all about kids," said Susan Brown, the club's vice president who helped organize the day's festivities.

With the slogan friends of youth, the club helps community youth programs and hosts events to help young people grow, develop and have fun.

Children's activities were the main focus as the club organized games such as races and a scavenger hunt and brought in inflatable structures and a puppet show among other activities.

Kicking off at noon, the event ran until 5 p.m.



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo
Bob Hammond, originally from Port Colborne, brings his 1972 Ford half-ton pickup truck to cruise night throughout the summer.

The club, which will celebrate its 25th year in 2012, enlisted the help of sponsors and also held a penny sale to help offset the costs of the event.

Brown described the event as an important day because it gave the community groups invited to set up booths

exposure and a chance to show the city what they have to offer. She said it was also beneficial for the club itself because people who may not be aware of the club or its purpose will see their work for its first hand.

With the weather on its side, the club was able to

keep traffic up.

This was the fourth year the event was held on Father's Day, which Brown thought added to the family atmosphere and gave people something to do on this day.

"It seems to get bigger and bigger every year," she said of the participation and support.



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo
Mya Ryan, 7, met Fancy the Owl at the seventh annual Optimist Day in the Park on June 19. The event promoted the club while sharing its youth-oriented message.



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo
Issac and Kevin Laurin participated in the children's games at the Optimist Day in the Park on Sunday as they raced across the grass in their potato sacks.

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■ **FRANK GRECO:** Port man's TV show aired this week

Niagara's travel guy

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Did you know you can spend the day as a guard at the Citadel in Halifax or that some taxi drivers in Iceland start the meter as soon as you make a call to them and don't turn it off until your luggage is out of the cab?

How about the fact it's illegal to import or wear camouflage clothing in St. Vincent and the Grenadines?

These are just some of the things you should know Before You Go, which is the motto of The Travel Guy television show hosted by Port Colborne native Frank Greco.

Greco's show, in its second season, premiered on Discovery World HD on Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m. Discovery World HD is available on digital cable and satellite across Canada.

If you tuned on Tuesday, you would have seen see Greco visit the Caribbean islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines where he explained the camouflage rule.

"Only the police on the islands wear camouflage... they don't want anyone else wearing it and be confused as police," said Greco during an interview in Port Colborne.

These are just some of what you'll see on the half-

hour show, a 13-part series that airs until late September.

In his first season, Greco visited Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bora Bora and Rangiroa, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Greece—Athens, Hawaiian Islands, Malta, Rome and Amalfi, Florence and Pisa, Tahiti and Moorea and Toronto-Niagara Falls.

Season 2 sees him visit St. Vincent and the Grenadines, N.S.; Ireland; Iceland; Viti Levu Island, Fiji; Vanua Levu Island, Fiji; Wales, St. Augustine, Fla.; Cyprus, Charleston, S. C.; Bonaire, Switzerland, and the Yukon.

"They're all new destinations, new adventures, new experiences and new people. I try so many new things."

One of those new things is spending a day as a guard at the Citadel in Halifax, complete in period-costume, in this case a kilt.

"I had a great guy teach me everything I needed to be a guard and I was in an authentic uniform."

Greco asked what was worn beneath the guard's kilt. "He told me 'Nothing' and I thought he was kidding. There was a gust of wind and sure enough he wasn't kidding. I'm not that daring," said Greco, adding he wore something under his kilt.

Spending the day as a guard is something any tourist visiting the Citadel could

do, he said.

All people have to do is ask.

Greco wants to show viewers they can have all kinds of fun and different experiences while on vacation, they don't have to stay inside resorts or visit just the 'tourist' spots.

"You don't have to stay by the pool or hang out on a beach."

He'll try just about anything on a trip — like snorkeling inside caves in Bonaire, an activity not found in any tourist guide. "You had to climb down this rope into the cave... it was so black below. It was beautiful. It was like an oasis inside. The water was a little chilly, but you got used to it. You could see stalactites under the water when you pointed your flashlight in the water... it was a phenomenal experience."

He's zip-lined through rainforests, fed sharks and crocodiles and snowmobiled on a glacier which happened to be on the volcano that erupted in Iceland, just the week after. "Some of what I do may seem extreme, but it's not. If I can do it, anyone can."

Greco isn't a fan of heights, but has learned to overcome that fear through the things he does on the show. "If you get out and explore, you'll leave with a greater experience."



Supplied photo

Frank Greco, host of The Travel Guy, gives two thumbs up, a signature for his show, at the Citadel in Halifax. The Travel Guy show premiered on Discovery World HD on Tuesday.

see GRECO | page 9

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■ GRECO

'I'm still a student of history and always learning things

FROM PAGE 8

Through his show and what he experiences make look more "high end," its not said Greco. "I don't talk about prices on the show, but everything is affordable."

The show is not high-end like some travel shows and not a travelling about the backpackers on the cheap. He said the show is more "middle of the road."

Before he and the film crew head to a location, he'll conduct his own research online. He doesn't rely on guidebooks because they don't always have all the information, may be outdated or not have what he's looking for.

"I pick an area and look at things of interest to me and what I think the viewer would like to see. I'll then contact the local tourist board and talk with them."

Because he's shooting a television show, Greco works with the tourist board to let them know what he and the crew need to shoot.

Tourist boards, he said, are a great source of information on a country or city and people should utilize the resource. Tourist boards aren't going to steer people wrong because they know a bad experience could hurt tourism in their area, he said.

"Ask at the front desk of a hotel," he said, adding that's how he found out about the caves in Bonaire. "People that work at the hotels know what's out there. They're there daily and they know people."

During his travels, if he or the crew spot something interesting, off they'll go. It might mean a change in what they were going to shoot, but it can lead them to

something new, interesting, fun and memorable.

The show isn't just about a location and things to do, for Greco it's about learning the history of a place and meeting people.

"I'm still a student of history and always learning things."

In Fiji, where the people are extremely friendly, he had to match chiefs drink for drink with the local drink called kava. Because Greco is the head of his company, he's the 'chief' and every time the local chief drank, he had to as well. Kava, made from the kava root, is a mild analgesic, diuretic and stress reliever that can leave a person all 'tingly'.

To even sit with the chief, Greco had to bring a gift to him, which was the kava.

see GRECO | page 10

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GRECO

Travel Guy has parents to thank for inspiration

FROM PAGE 9

"I fuelled my own drinking habit," he said with a laugh.

In St. Augustine, Fla., he met a woman who was injured in the 9-11 attacks in the U.S. The woman, he learned, spent a week in the hospital before her family knew she was alive. The woman also revealed she'll never wear a dress again, something she enjoyed before, because of the scars on her legs that came from her injuries.

While in Northern Ireland, he met a woman who cooked for Queen Elizabeth and a man who told stories about the fairies.

Greco also likes to "get involved in what people are doing" and leaves his beliefs behind in Canada. It's the only way to truly experience things.

In Fiji he learned to spearfish and catch octopus and crabs. "It's an every day occurrence ... it's what they eat that day."

In Iceland, besides making a dessert with liquid nitrogen and cooking an egg in a geyser, Greco ate parts of a sheep — the testicles and head — because that's what Icelanders do at a certain time of year.

Asked where his love of travel came from, Greco said his parents. Though his parents don't travel, it was the first trip the family ever made that set Greco on his path to travel and television.

The Travel Guy

Air dates on Discovery World HD

- June 21: St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- June 28: Nova Scotia
- July 5: Ireland
- July 12: Iceland
- July 19: Viti Levu Island, Fiji

"We came over from Italy when I was about eight or nine ... my parent's came here for a better life for them, myself and my sister."

He still has to call his mother when he lands in another country and arrives back home to let her know he's safe. If not, he'll catch some grief when he comes back home to visit.

His sister, Teresa, has helped him with his show and production company, as has his wife Julia. "She's a Godsend," he said of his wife.

When she travels with him, she's the production director and makes sure he and the crew stick to their schedules. She makes sure he pronounces names properly. "She's very creative and gives us a lot of input."

To date, he's been to 23 countries and wants to see as many as he can.

When he first started the show, many trips were paid out of his own pocket. Tourist boards, who will fly in TV

July 26: Vanua Levu Island, Fiji

- Aug. 9: Wales
- Aug. 16: St. Augustine
- Aug. 23: Cyprus
- Aug. 30: Charleston (South Carolina)
- Sept. 6: Bonaire
- Sept. 13: Switzerland
- Sept. 20: The Yukon

crews, weren't sure of him and his company because they had no reputation and were just starting out. He didn't even have a deal with any television distributors when he started filming season one.

"I knew the show would be picked up." The show was picked up for distribution and broadcast, San TV broadcast all of the first season shows in Canada. Discovery World HD picked up the second season of the show.

"My distributor in Montreal called me one day and asked if I was sitting down. When someone says that, it's either good news or bad news."

"I told them I was sitting down and they said it was good news, that Discovery World HD had picked us up."

All of the shows hadn't been shot at the time, so Greco and his crew went and finished the series and made sure everything was edited and delivered to Discovery's specifications.



Supplied photo Male dancers on the island of Viti Levu, Fiji, perform during filming of The Travel Guy TV show. The show, hosted by Port Colborne native Frank Greco, premiered on Discovery World HD on Tuesday.

Now known, Greco can plan out a season, contact tourist boards and work out a schedule to film.

"We're not always travelling in the high season. We go when we can."

That means the crew may have to deal with bad weather when they get somewhere. If it's raining, or they happen to get hit by a hurricane, they'll keep filming.

During the first season, they wanted to film in the

Caribbean, but a hurricane hit. They headed to Belize, but when there, another hurricane struck the coast and wiped out plans to visit coastal islands. Instead, they filmed inland and produced a good show.

People, he said, need to deal with whatever weather is handed to them when they are on vacation and still have a good time.

Oh, and for the bit about the taxi drivers in Iceland, Greco said it took until the fifth trip for him to realize what was happening. He's

not sure if all taxi drivers in Iceland start the meter before even arriving to pick up passengers, but the ones he ran into did. His recommendation? When you call, tell them to leave the meter off until they arrive and once at your destination, ask for the price as soon as the car stops. The drivers have to turn off their meters at the point and you'll pay less, he said.

It's one of those things you have to know Before You Go.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca
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2nd Port Colborne Scouts help their year-end BBQ which was a great success. We would like to thank the following business for donating food: **Bodner's Market, Joes Meats & Deli, Food Basics, M&M Meats, McDonalds, Sobeys.**



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■ **REQUESTS:** Name change was endorsed by groups

Park name change honours Harry Dayboll

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Oakwood Park will be getting a new name.

Last week, council voted unanimously to rename the green space Harry Dayboll Oakwood Park.

The name change honours Dayboll, a Port Colborne resident instrumental in the construction of the scout lodge at the rear of the park which was part of the former Township of Humberstone.

Dayboll has been a volunteer at the park and caretaker of the hall for more than 50 years. A former president of the 12th Port Colborne Scout



Kenny

Group, Dayboll has been involved in a number of organizations including being a former president of the Humberstone Lions Club and treasurer of Port Colborne District Scouts.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny said there were requests from the Optimist Club and Scouts Canada endorsing the name change.

"They (the organizations) spoke about a gentleman who dedicated many years

All residents from Queen St. saw him (Dayboll) go there everyday. He is a dedicated individual and the park should be rightly named after him."

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny

to the park," Kenny said. "All residents from Queen St. saw him (Dayboll) go there everyday. He is a dedicated individual and the park should be rightly named after him."

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■ **HAZARD:** People have hard time crossing street

Coun. Doucet wants light installed at busy crossing

EDDIE CHAU
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Something needs to be done at the corner of Main St. E. and Wellington St., Ward 2's Yvon Doucet says.

The Port Colborne councillor told fellow council members he would like to see some kind of traffic-stopping measure at the busy east-side intersection in order to let pedestrians cross the street safely.

"Sometimes you take life into your own hands," Doucet said of crossing the road. "I think another light is warranted there. I think we need to send a message to the region and say, 'Guys, take a look at this.'"

Doucet said there are many traffic lights on the west side of the canal bridge but there's "almost nothing



Doucet

ing" on the east side to calm traffic.

"Yet the same traffic is going through," he said. "If it warrants it on one side, why the other?"

Doucet said many children cross Main St. E. in order to get to Chestnut Park. The councillor said there's no way of them getting there "if it's even too dangerous for adults to cross."

Operations and engineering director Ron Hanson said city staff received a request for the traffic light last week. Hanson said the information will be forwarded to Niagara Region's traffic committee to review the matter and

"Sometimes you take life into your own hands. I think another light is warranted there. I think we need to send a message to the region and say, 'Guys, take a look at this.'"

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet

give the municipality some options.

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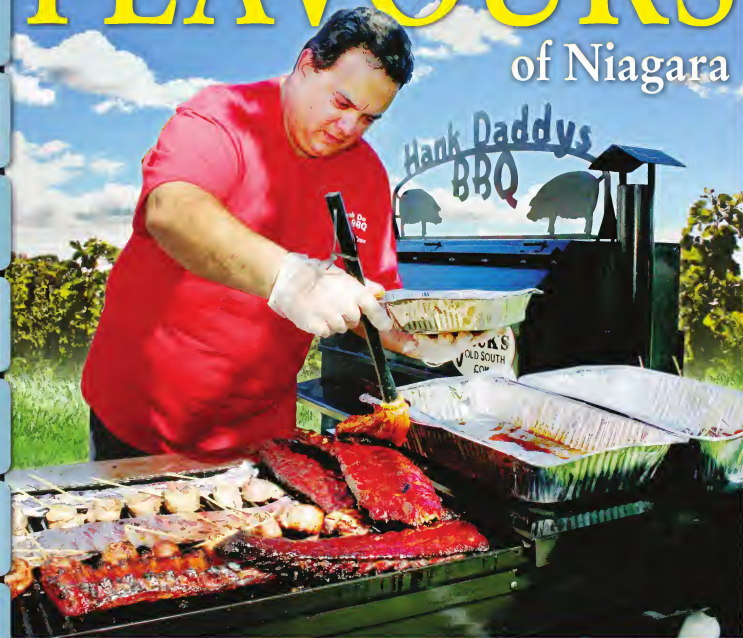
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Frank Caputo, owner and head cook of Hank Daddy's BBQ in Vaughan, has his barbecue and smoker fired up for his ribs during Friday's Flavours of Niagara International Food and Wine Festival kicked off at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne. The event features food and wine from 19 vendors. It continues today and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., with food available until 9 p.m.

KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

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Flavours offers a feast of food, wine and music

By *Lindsay Costello*
For *The Tribune*

Get ready to feast your eyes on local cuisine and culture as the Flavours of Niagara Festival hits Port Colborne again this summer.

The fifth annual festival will offer a celebration of food, wine and music that will give festival visitors a taste of what the region has to offer. Taking place at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, the three-day event will begin on July 1 and conclude July 3.

With gates opening at noon each day, there is plenty of time to satisfy cravings while sampling a variety of dishes, all while taking in the sights and sounds of the lakeside venue.

Ten local vendors will offer everything from jerk chicken to spring rolls to banana splits. The eclectic mix of flavours can be enjoyed by young and old at the family-friendly event that will also be serving wine from six local wineries.

The Flavours of Niagara committee has been striving for diversity, adding new vendors in order to appeal to everyone.

With free admission and affordable menu items, festival attendees can curb their appetites without breaking the bank.

Food and drink are not the only treats that visitors will experience. The festival will also be serving up the best in local entertainment with popular acts such as More Bad News and The Horns From Hell and Jonesy headlining the evening performances.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and prepare for hours of musical entertainment at the park's band shell.

Kicking off the weekend with Canada Day festivities on Friday, the festival committee has organized a performance by a steel drum band during the afternoon and will light up the night sky with fireworks at 10 p.m. Friday will also see the British Invasion Band hitting the stage at 5 p.m. followed by Jonesy at 8 p.m.



Saturday will bring TiannaH Jazz with a Twist to the stage from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Daylight for Deadeyes entertaining the crowd at 5 p.m. followed by More Bad News and The Horns From Hell at 8 p.m.

A performance by Steve Burnside and The Marquis will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday and will round out the weekend before the gates are closed at 5 p.m.

"Last year was very busy," said Gary Makins, manager of community services for the city of Port Colborne, adding almost 15,000 people attended the 2010 festivities.

He said the committee is anticipating another successful year as the festival continues to grow and increase in popularity.

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A weekend to tickle the tastebuds

By Lindsay Costello
For The Tribune

Give your taste buds a treat as you sample everything from desserts to meats.

The Flavours of Niagara Festival offers a variety of cuisine from throughout the Niagara region. While it maintains a strong local connection, the festival has continued to expand in 2011 and also includes vendors from the Toronto area.

With each food item costing less than \$5, visitors have the chance to sample a wide range of dishes.

Niagara Falls restaurant Kool Kats Caribbean plans to bring a taste of the south Pacific by serving up goat roti, jerk chicken on a pita, Jamaican patties and curry chicken roti. Bringing a similar vibe will be Caribbean Flavah, based out of Ajax, Ont.

Jerk chicken, Jerk pork, oxtail, curry goat, curry chicken, vegetable roti and rice with a small salad will be on the menu at their booth. Both restaurants will have tasters envisioning a tropical paradise.

Hailing from Vaughn, Ont., Melo's Divine

Delights and Hank Daddy's BBQ will bring their cuisine south for the weekend. Melo's Divine Delights will offer resta fiesta, corn soup, tofu satou with pumpkin rice, and a grilled vegetable wrap. Hank Daddy's BBQ

...the festival has continued to expand in 2011 and also includes vendors from the Toronto area.

will serve pulled pork sliders, beef brisket sliders, pulled pork parafits, smoked chicken wings and baby back ribs.

Weland's Rex Hotel will provide the festival with a taste of Italy. Italian sausage slides, fettuccine alfredo, Monterey grilled shrimp and Italian fried ice cream will be available.

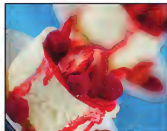
Port Colborne's own Smokin' Buddha will offer adventurous eaters a chance to try food from each of the cultures the restaur-

ant represents - Mexican, Thai, Japanese and Indian. Vegetable or chicken samosa, gyoza, roasted vegetable curry, chana masala, dim sum and spring rolls will all be up for grabs when visiting this diverse asset to the festival.

Those looking to sink their teeth into some of Port Colborne's pizza can find cheese and pepperoni and ham and pineapple slices as well as pizza bruchetta at the Super Mario's Pizza booth.

Another one of the festival's local vendors is the Country Corner Market. The Port Colborne shop plans to bring steak on a bun, Tuscani salt and pepper sausage, hot dogs and French fries to the festival. Joe's Meat Market, also in Port Colborne, will bring a similar vibe when sausage on a bun, onion rings and peameal bacon on a bun are served up throughout the weekend.

Last but not least, visitors with a sweet tooth can head over to the Cool Licks booth to sample some of the Weland parlour's tasty treats. Keep cool with ice cream or a banana split or opt for toffee, pudding, apple dumplings or a brownie delight dessert.



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Savouring Niagara's wine industry

By LINDSAY COSTELLO
For The Tribune

Raise your glass to the Flavours of Niagara Festival for bringing some of the best local wines to the region this year.

The festival has teamed up with 20 Valley, which encompasses Beamsville, Vineland and Jordan, to feature six different wineries this year.

For \$4, visitors can purchase a four-ounce glass of their preferred variety.

Aure Wines of Beamsville will offer a classic red, classic white and Riesling wine.

Also of Beamsville is Angels Gate Winery. They will offer merlot, gewürztraminer and a sursreserve Riesling.

Cave Springs Cellars in Jordan, Ont. will feature cabernet merlot, Riesling and Niagara peninsula wine.

Another Jordan-based winery, Flat Rock Cellars, will have visitors sampling a pinot noir and a twisted white wine.

Henry of Pelham also features a pinot noir as well as an off-dry Riesling.

Vineland winery Wayne Gretzky Estates is serving up its estate series sauvignon blanc, merlot and a Riesling.

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July 28 - August 13

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By Norm Foster
August 18 - September 3

John North



Entertainment



More Bad News & The Horns From Hell

More Bad News and The Horns From Hell will kick it into high gear as they take the stage at this year's Flavours of Niagara festival.

Performing a mix of classic rock covers, featuring an amazing horn section and playing songs from difficult to cover groups like Chicago and Joe Cocker, the energy and enthusiasm they bring to the stage has positioned them as one of the areas top cover bands.

The eight-member group has become a staple in the region, performing at various venues including fundraisers and festivals.

Catch their high-energy stage show when they headline a show at the band shell beginning at 8 p.m. on July 2.



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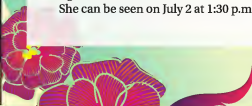
A local woman with a big voice will croon visitors at the Flavours of Niagara Festival this July.

Born in Niagara Falls, TiannaH offers a soulful, jazz sound with a twist.

With roots in gospel and rhythm and blues, jazz is a natural fit for the singer.

A staple in the Niagara entertainment scene, she has also opened for artists such as Terri Clarke, Ashley McIssac, Blue Rodeo and performed in productions of The Lion King and Dream Girls.

She can be seen on July 2 at 1:30 p.m.



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having participated in
many festivals... **Jonesy**
knows how to draw a crowd

Jonesy

When five Niagara men joined forces seven years ago to play their first show, they took the first step towards becoming one of the region's most popular cover bands.

Vetrans to the music scene, Scott Nielson, Paul Lalama, Paul Ried, Craig Rewbury and Richard Brown have been involved in music from a young age.

With both classic and modern selections, this group of 30-somethings performs a wide range of styles, covering artists ranging from Coldplay to The Beatles. Their pop/rock repertoire is constantly growing and offers something for everyone.

With Nielson at the helm, Lalama plays guitar, Rewbury, the bass, Ried, the keyboards and Brown, the drums.

Having participated in many festivals across the region, Jonesy knows how to draw a crowd and are sure to please when they hit the stage as the headlining act on July 1.

British Invasion Band

Celebrating the music of the 60s, The British Invasion band pays tribute to the era.

Some of the artists they salute include The Beatles and The Rolling Stones but it doesn't stop there. They also pay tribute to some American artists that reigned during that time.

Bringing their set to the festival on July 1 at 5 p.m., the British Invasion Band will take listeners back in time with their nostalgic sound.



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Steve Burnside & The Marquis

After more than 50 years of experience under their belts, Steve Burnside and The Marquis continue to sing the blues.

Backed by an eight-piece band, Burnside is no stranger to Flavours of Niagara.

Rising to fame in the 1960s with performances across North America, he is known for his signature square guitar.

Steve Burnside and The Marquis work seamlessly together to blend their sound together while putting their own spin on the blues genre.

Look for them at 1 p.m. on July 3 as the festival winds down.



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Daylight For Deadeyes

With a hard-hitting rock and roll sound and catchy hooks, Daylight for

Deadeyes brings a high-energy performance to the table every time they hit the stage.

The three-piece band features Chris Gormley as drummer and lead vocalist, Matt Gormley as guitarist and vocalist and Andy Neill on bass. Formed in 2003 and based in the Toronto area,

Daylight for Deadeyes are influenced by classic artists such as Led Zeppelin and AC/DC.

“Their honest, feel-good approach to song writing has brought them to venues across Canada as well as Britain”

Their honest, feel-good approach to song writing has brought them to venues across Canada as well as Britain.

Taking the stage at 5 p.m. on July 2, the band will

continue to bring their music to the masses.



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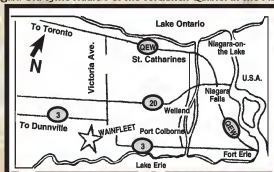
Saturday Evening

Thresher's Supper, 6:30 p.m. at Christ Church.

Tickets available at Information Booth for \$16.00 or call 905-899-1285 - 905-899-9995

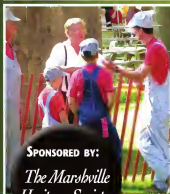
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■ **FULL STOPS:** People rolling through intersection

Brakes put on four-way stops in Port

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Shrubs and vehicles may be a safety concern for motorists headed towards the intersection of Killaly St. E. and Elizabeth St.

The issue was discussed last week by councillors as they voted on a report questioning need for installation of all-way stops at three intersections. The report recommended no changes for two-way stop controls at Killaly and Elizabeth, Catharine and Elgin Sts. and Franklin Ave. and Knoll St.

While discussing Elizabeth and Killaly, Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais said there have been 14 crashes in the past 10 years at the intersection.

The report noted all were minor with no injuries and vehicles sustaining less than \$5,000 in damages. The report stated a majority of the colli-

sions were caused by drivers stopping at the stop signs on Elizabeth then proceeding to cross Killaly into the path of traffic.

Desmarais said people are not making full stops entering the intersection southbound off Elizabeth because of obstructed views on the northeast side.

"There's lots of shrubs. There are vehicles parked there," she said. "It totally creates problems with sight lines. If we don't recommend a stop sign there we best be policing the area."

Engineering and operations director Ron Hansen said the area was reviewed by staff and the sight lines were clear. While there may be times there's a vehicle parked at the corner, Hansen said it doesn't appear to be an issue.

Because of the cars parked on the northeast corner and unkempt shrubs, city plan-

ner Dan Aquilina noted it could be a property standards issue. He said a bylaw officer can observe the area to see if they go against the property

standards bylaw.

Chief administrative officer Robert Heil said the city acts on bylaws on a complaint basis. If there are issues, a reg-

istry can be created for staff to keep an eye on things.

"We know there are problems. It creates some angst in the community," Heil said.

"There are some properties and issues where bylaw enforcement follow up on. We can create a list and keep it on file."

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■ FIREFIGHTING

New bunker gear for new volunteers

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Combining the power of six fire services, Wainfleet was able to purchase eight new sets of bunker gear for its volunteer firefighters at a great price.

Council received a report from fire Chief Chris Cole last week about gear, which will come from PPE Solutions. Each set of gear, for the newest volunteers, will cost \$1,299 each — about \$90.94 lower than a price quoted to Wainfleet by the same supplier earlier this year, said Cole's report.

The new volunteers each recently finished a probationary period and passed final testing and under an agreement between the firefighters association and township, will have the gear purchased for them.

In his report, Cole said Wainfleet worked through the Niagara Regional Fire Chiefs

Association, which formed a subcommittee to research the cost effectiveness of joint purchasing.

Wainfleet, Thorold, Lincoln, West Lincoln, Grimsby and Fort Erie, with the Town of Grimsby acting as lead agency, worked collectively on a request for proposal to purchase bunker gear for each of their fire services.

"Combining the purchasing power of these six departments has increased the volume and significantly reduced the cost per unit. ... the deputy chief from Grimsby hand delivered a copy of the request for proposal to every supplier at the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs conference trade show. ... said Cole in his report.

The lowest bid submitted from PPE Solutions, which is Wainfleet's current supplier of bunker gear, was accepted by the subcommittee.

Council unanimously passed Cole's report.

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EYE EXAMS ARRANGED

■ **LOCATION:** More people able to meet

Port High reunion – in Burlington

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Plans are underway for the second Port Colborne High School reunion that will bring together students from 1954 to 1962.

Former Blue Bears will have the chance to catch up with one another during the Sept. 24-25 reunion taking place at the Holiday Inn Burlington, 3063 South Service Rd., in Burlington.

The hotel was chosen to host the event because of its central location for people planning to attend.

The reunion is organized by Fran Phillips Cohen and Susie Witmer Albano, two former Port High students who reconnected through Facebook in 2009. The pair organized the

first reunion for the 1954 to 1962 era in April 2010.

That reunion was hailed a huge success and all who attended were honoured to have four former high school teachers present.

Many guests also requested a second reunion be held within the next two years.

Cohen and Albano have been working diligently to plan the second event and have been informing former students through e-mails, letters and telephone calls.

Following numerous conversations and hearing wonderful comments about the first reunion, Cohen and Albano have found many more former classmates from 1954 to 1962 who wish to attend this year's event.

The reunion will begin Sept.

24, with a dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a sock hop with music from the '50s. Cost is \$25 a person.

On Sept. 25, registration for lunch begins at 11 a.m. followed by the meal at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 a person. There will be a cash bar.

Confirmed guests will be travelling from across Canada, the United States and beyond. People who wish to attend but have not yet been notified can do so by contacting Albano at 905-732-6833 or s.m.albano@live.ca, or Cohen at francobcohen@gmail.com.

A special hotel room rate is available by calling Holiday Inn Burlington at 1-888-987-4888, ext. 4647, using the ID code 928434.

Deadline to register for the event is Aug. 24.

■ **FLOWER:** Horticultural society's annual show



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Vivian Shoalts stands with her flower display that won her the trophy for Best Arrangement at the Port Colborne Horticultural Society's annual flower show last Saturday.

Gardeners' delight

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Bright pinks, yellows, reds and blues filled the community room at the Friends Over 50 Centre last Saturday.

The colourful displays of beautiful blooms were brought in by the city's green thumbs, who proudly entered the highlights of their gardens in Port Colborne

“It’s a chance to show people what you’re growing, and if you get a ribbon that makes it that much better.”

Vivian Shoalts, flower show organizer

Horticultural Society's annual flower show.

“This is the culmination of our year,” said show organizer Vivian Shoalts.

Port Colborne has “a lot of good gardeners,” she said, and the flower show provides them the opportunity to put their hard work on display.

“It’s a chance to show people what you’re growing, and if you get a ribbon that makes it that much better,” Shoalts said with a laugh. She didn’t go home empty-handed on Saturday, taking home a trophy for Best Arrangement.

The show is also an opportunity for garden lovers to come and peruse the unique variety of flowers that fill the room, and to ask questions about their own gardens.

It was the Horticultural Society's vast knowledge of gardening that initially drew

president Pat Bowman to join three years ago.

“They’re an encyclopedia of plants,” she said of her fellow members. The club is always looking for new members, she added, encouraging anyone with an interest in horticulture to jump on board.

While the rain the lakeside city has seen over the past few months did hinder the amount of entries the show received, Bowman said the group was still pleased with the turnout.

Some years the show receives upward of 300 entries, Shoalts said. This year there were less than 100. “The weather plays a big part in determining which flowers are in bloom in time for the show,” she added.

mfrith@wellandtribune.ca
Twitter: @mfrithtribune



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Pat Bowman, president of the Port Colborne Horticultural Society, exams a unique cactus that she entered in the group's annual flower show, which took place last Saturday.

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■ **JOBS:** Positive news

Manpower survey predicts increased hiring for Welland and Port Colborne

InPort News Staff

WELLAND — There will be a reasonable stream of new hires in the third quarter of 2011, according to the latest Manpower Employ Outlook Survey.

Manpower, an organization that provides employment services around the world, 16% of Welland and Port Colborne employers plan to hire in the third quarter up from a prediction of a 10% made last quarter.

It's welcome news for Mike Sloat, president of the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, who said any time there is an increase in hiring it strengthens the economy.

"Port Colborne is so diverse

and there's different avenues to find jobs," Sloat said. "The marine industry has always been strong and local construction is strong. It's positive news."

Dolores Fabiano, executive director of the Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce, said that 10% of employers plan to hire locally is positive.

"It has an impact," Fabiano said. "Thirteen per cent. We'll (even) take that."

Fabiano said there are a lot of Welland businesses quietly hiring new staff, which steadily raises the hiring percentage. While larger businesses may hire 10 to 20 people and smaller operations take on one to two new employees, when the statistics are combined, it equates to a stronger

economy.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted every four months to measure employers' intention to change its number of employees in the workforce in the next quarter. Running for more than 47 years, the survey gains feedback from more than 63,000 public and private employers around the world. The survey touched on a variety of employment sectors including: mining, transportation and public utilities, public administration, construction, services, wholesale and trade, finance, insurance and real estate, manufacturing and education. Overall in Niagara, 23% of employers surveyed plan to hire, while 7% went to cut back.

■ **INTERIM BYLAW:** Council passes bylaw

'We're rebuilding, excuse our mess'

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — As the township passed its interim control bylaw to freeze most development in its boil water advisory area, Ald. David Wyatt wanted to send a message to residents who feel council is being too restrictive.

"Someone said we're putting up a sign (with the bylaw): 'Closed due to contamination.' I'd say the sign we're putting up is 'We're rebuilding, excuse our mess,'" Wyatt said last week.

Wyatt said the bylaw is temporary, not permanent, until Wainfleet gets its find, replace, program in place. Any developments that meet current bylaws would be allowed under the interim bylaw, and Wyatt added that new homes like replacing shingles, doors or windows will still be allowed.

The find, replace, replace program will be designed to take care of problems associated with faulty septic systems along the lakeshore area after aldermen rejected Niagara Region's so-called Big Pipe option. The Big Pipe could



Wyatt

have seen a water sewer pipeline installed along the length of the lake-shore area, which is defined as everything



Dykstra

the find, replace, program is going to make the water-front much cleaner and healthier for everyone in the

township. Ald. Ted Hessels said the bylaw will not stop development on the lake and will allow projects that meet current planning and building bylaws to develop.

Hessels said the township wants time to get its new policy in place, adding it will help take care of years of bad planning policy along the lakeshore.

Robins said drains in Wainfleet empty into the lake and are draining farmers fields. He wondered if fecal matter that was contaminating groundwater and beach wells was from animals and not humans.

"I think you're leading people on and it's not fair," he said.

Hessels said the township was not leading people on and in response to a comment from Robins, said he wasn't afraid of DNA testing of any fecal matter found in water.

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